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Mrs. ELIZABETH TORSHELL's Letter to the Ordinary of Newgate, containing a particular Account of the Murther committed upon the Body of Mr. Robert Woodcock in Chelsea-fields by Mr. Edward Jefferis, lately executed for the same.

Reverend Sir,

AFTER a Consideration of your good Counsel, I think it my Duty to give you an Account, to the uttermost of my Knowledge, in this Murther of Mr. Woodcock. When Mr. Jefferis and I came through the Park, we went into the Hither-Door of the Mulberry-Garden, and walk'd up toward the House. Said Mr. Jefferis, "We will go to Chelsea, and if you will go through the House, we will make an Excuse at the Bar. I went through first, and stay'd at the Wall, and Mr. Jefferis came to me. Then we walk'd towards Chelsea, and entering into the Field that is the direct Path, Mr. Jefferis said, "There is a Friend of mine, pray walk on, I will overtake you immediately. Accordingly I did, and got within two Fields of Chelsea when Mr. Jefferis overtook me, (which Way he came I know not) for I walk'd very slow, and he was by me before I had any Sight of him. I perceiv'd something of a Surprize in him. Said I, "You are out of Temper. Have you and that Gentleman had any Words? He answer'd me, "We have had Words, and I gave him a small prick. But, said I, "I hope you have not hurt him. "No, no, said Mr. Jefferis. And that was every Word we spoke concerning it. When we came into Chelsea, said Mr. Jefferis, "We will go to the Cheshire-Cheese, for I know the Man of that House: So we went in, for then we were by the Door. And when we came into the Room, Mr. Jefferis laid his Sword, Hat, and Gloves on the Table, and went out of the Room. I took the Sword in my Hand, and drew it out of the Scabbard, to see if it were bloody, by the reason he said that he had prick'd the Gentleman. But the Sword was neither bloody nor broke, as the Boys said. But there is a good Reason to be given for the Boys saying so: For one Day when Mr. Jefferis and I were in the Chappel, I asked him, if he did not give the Wound with Mr. Woodcock's own Sword, and if he did not draw it. He said, No. Then said I, "As he was drawing his Sword, I suppose you snatch'd it from him; for the Chirurgion said, it was not the Sword you had that gave the Wound. And did you break his Sword, as the Boys said you did? No said he, "I broke no Sword. But then reply'd I, "Did you not go to break it? He made me no Answer to that Word, only said it happen'd so unfortunately for me to know the said Mr. Woodcock, and my having those Rings made him suffer. Said I, "I knew not that you had kill'd him, when you were fetch'd by my Order; neither did I know that he was any Acquaintance of yours. But, said I, "I am told that you have Money of his, and that you chang'd one of his Guinea's that Night you came into the Goal. Said Mr. Jefferis, "He gave me none. Nay, Sir, said I to him, "I don't ask you if you took them, or if he gave you any. "But by what the Boys and I do know, there

"must be something more than I find you are willing I should know; and I suppose he would not give you any, and that was the occasion you quarell'd. He fetch'd a very great Sigh, and shook his Head, but made me no Answer: Which makes me think it was so; for he never spoke many Words after: Which makes me think he did resent my putting those Words so very close to him. All that ever he said to me after was, That he wonder'd I was not out, and said, he would not have me come up to Chappel, for what reason I cannot say, except upon that you took so much Pains to examine us severally and together, he feared I should say how he left me: For he said to me, "Don't you mention that when we went to Chelsea, I was any time out of your Company; for if you do, then I shall not be reprieved. I humbly ask your Pardon, Sir, for not letting you know as far as my Knowledge reached: But knowing I could not do the Deceas'd any Good; and if I spoke, this Man would lose his Life, made me leave it to the just God, which knows the Secrets of all Hearts. This is all I can say. But I beg of you to pray to God for me, to keep me from all such wicked Persons: And that will add very much to the Health and Satisfaction of my poor Soul.

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant

Elizabeth Torshell.

Out of the Master-side in Newgate,
Octob. 15th, 1705.

S I R,

One thing more I forgot to mention; which is, That Mr. Jefferis all along said he should have a Reprieve, if I said nothing concerning his Knowledge of Mr. Woodcock; for he said he had petition'd His Grace the Duke of Ormond, and that he would get a Friend to go to the QUEEN; which I do believe was Mrs. Lambourn, one of the Boys Mothers. Mr. Jefferis moreover said, that the Father of Mr. Robert Woodcock should not have his Life; for he did not question but he should be reprieved for all that: I suppose you know, Sir, that Mr. Jefferis's Opinion was, That there was only a Heaven, and no Place of Torment for bad Livers, but to be put out of the Presence of the Lord: Which he said to me before he came into this Place, and since you and many more Learned Divines have taken Pains to make him own the Fact for which he justly has suffered.

E. T.

Directed thus,

For the Reverend Mr. Paul Lorrain.

I Attest the above Paper to be a true Copy of a Letter written and delivered to me by Mrs. Eliz. Torshell's own Hand, on Monday the 15th of October, 1705.

PAUL LORRAIN, Ordinary of Newgate.